

Today's News - Monday, September 28, 2009

- ArcSpace brings us Hadid in Cairo and Meier in Prague.
- Reshaping suburbia to make it more livable: "We really can't afford to wait."
- Scientist find urban green roofs are more effective in fighting global warming than first thought.
- A call for Bulgaria to cut bureaucracy: "It is not yet accepted culturally that good design improves lives and the quality of living."
- Dillon delves into Dallas's new cultural district: "will all this high design come together to make a real place...Or will it devolve into a glossy architecture fair that...does little to nourish the life of the city?" (we hope the former)
- Kamin says Chicago will change whether it gets the 2016 Olympics or not - just don't get carried away with high hopes for big change.
- King cheers new Disney museum in San Francisco's Presidio: it's an "artful transformation of a statuesque barrack," but also a lesson in "how difficult future restorations will be"; it's official: there will be no Fisher Museum in the Presidio - he died two days after leaving his collection to SFMOMA.
- A £1.5 billion east London project, including Farrell's aquarium, is "dead in the water" (or is it?).
- English Heritage backs Koolhaas plans Commonwealth Institute: the public benefits would "outweigh the harm" to the West London landmark.
- Chipperfield reworks his Kunsthaus Zürich extension to make it "more consistent with the political and cultural interests" of the city's urban development department.
- Architects of Yale's 1981 Mudd Library are "dismayed" that they can't convince officials to preserve and adopt it for new uses.
- Meanwhile in Ohio, an architect helps find new use for an Edsel showroom he designed in 1957.
- An eyeeful of a home in Israel designed with input from the children with special needs who will live there.
- An eyeeful of Gorlin's "tranquil" Hampton beach house: "You pay the mighty ocean the humble compliment of extreme simplicity."
- A good reason to head to Chicago this week: Design Futures Council Leadership Summit on Sustainable Design, then zip over to Oregon for the launch of the first annual Portland Architecture + Design Festival.
- The exhibit has ended, but Daniell found it a fulfilling presentation of "one of the most important mentor-protégé lineages in postwar Japanese architecture."
- We couldn't resist: a video of daredevil window cleaners adding sparkle to the Burj Dubai (yikes!).

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-- Zaha Hadid Architects: Cairo Expo City, Egypt
-- Richard Meier & Partners: ECM City Tower, Prague, Czech Republic

[Making Suburbia More Livable: The nation's sprawling suburbs may have been a good place to grow up, but they're a tough place to grow old. Here's how towns are beginning to 'retrofit' their neighborhoods..."We really can't afford to wait."](#) -- Ellen Dunham-Jones; Duany Plater-Zyberk (DPZ) - Wall Street Journal

['Green roofs' prove even more effective in fighting global warming than first thought: ...scientists found that green roofing an urban area of about one million people would capture more than 55,000 tons of carbon, or the same effect as removing more than 10,000 mid-sized SUVs or trucks off the road a year. \[links\] - Gizmag \(Australia\)](#)

[UK Architect Urges Bulgaria Government to Cut Bureaucracy: Alexander Daw has slammed the Bulgarian planning system and land law..."it is not yet accepted culturally \(in Bulgaria\) that good design improves lives and the quality of living."](#) -- Oscar Architects [link to Q&A] - Novinite.com (Sofia News Agency)

[Will AT&T Performing Arts Center truly become city's heart? The Winspear Opera House and the Wyly Theatre \[have\] sharply different personalities...will all this high design come together to make a real place...Or will it devolve into a glossy architecture fair that...does little to nourish the life of the city? By David Dillon -- Foster + Partners; REX/OMA, Joshua Prince-Ramus and Rem Koolhaas \[slide show\] - Dallas Morning News](#)

[Change is coming whether Chicago gets the 2016 Summer Olympic Games or not -- just not big change: It's easy to get carried away...Here's some advice: Chill...the city's Olympic proposals represent a disappointing pull-back from the "make no little plans" spirit of Daniel Burnham. By Blair Kamin - Chicago Tribune](#)

[Disney museum a lesson for building in Presidio: The artful transformation of a statuesque barrack into the Walt Disney Family Museum shows it is possible to bring the most memorable buildings of San Francisco's Presidio into the 21st century....\\$110 million project also shows how difficult future restorations will be. By John King -- Page & Turnbull; David Rockwell \[imges\] - San Francisco Chronicle](#)

[Obituary: Donald Fisher, Gap co-founder, 81: ...death comes two days after the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art announced that it had formed a partnership with the Fishers to house their collection...in a new wing of the museum. - San Francisco Chronicle](#)

[Terry Farrell aquarium plans dead in the water: London Development Agency pulls out of deal with developer Silvertown Quays on £1.5bn east London project...scheme also included 5000 homes, offices, shops, leisure facilities... \[image\] - Building \(UK\)](#)

[The reasons why English Heritage backed Commonwealth Institute plans: ...EH claimed it 'would have been irresponsible to turn away' OMA's controversial plans...'substantial public benefits secured through the application' -- including the arrival of the Design museum -- would 'outweigh the harm' to the Grade II*-listed, West London landmark -- RMJM \(1962\); Koolhaas/Office for Metropolitan Architecture \[images, links\] - The Architects' Journal \(UK\)](#)

[Chipperfield redesigns his Kunsthaus Zürich extension proposal: ...revisions 'address all of the concerns raised' by the jury. The scheme is generally more open and landscaped and is 'now more consistent with the political and cultural interests of Zürich's urban development department' \[images\] - The Architects' Journal \(UK\)](#)

[Mudd Library's designers dismayed: ...stands in the path of the university's plans for two new residential colleges...the architects have been unable to convince Yale officials to preserve it and adopt it for new uses. -- Roth and Moore Architects \(1981\); Robert A.M. Stern - New Haven Register \(Connecticut\)](#)

[Architect helps find new use for building he designed in 1957: It was, in many ways, a simpler era in building...was finished in time for the unveiling of a model that proved to be one of the biggest failures in automotive marketing history. The Edsel... --](#)

[Dick Bierley](#)- Springfield News-Sun (Ohio)

[The Uterus Project, Hadera, Israel: ...designed with input from the children with special needs who will live there. -- Lior Vaknin + Sabi Aroch \[images\]](#)- The Architectural Review/AR (UK)

[Angles of Repose: A Hampton's beach house finds tranquility in minimal volumes and pared details..."You pay the mighty ocean the humble compliment of extreme simplicity." -- Alexander Gorlin; David Scott \[slide show\]](#)- Architectural Digest

[Design Futures Council Leadership Summit on Sustainable Design: "Voice, Influence and Power: Taking the Reins of Leadership"; September 30 - October 2, Chicago-](#) DesignIntelligence

[A+D:09 - first annual Portland Architecture + Design Festival, October 1-31 - AIA Portland \(Oregon\)](#)

["Before Architecture, After Architecture": ...presented a sequence of four architects from one of the most important mentor-protégé lineages in postwar Japanese architecture; "Generation of Generativity" ...by a younger generation comprise experiments in repetition-with-variation... By Thomas Daniell -- Kiyonori Kikutake; Toyo Ito; Kazuyo Sejima/Ryue Nishizawa/SANAA; Sou Fujimoto; Hideyuki Nakayama; Ryuji Nakamura; Yasutaka Yoshimura; dot architects; Ryuji Fujimura; Kiyomichi Yamazaki \[images\]](#)- Artscape (Japan)

[Pain in the glass: Cleaning the Burj Dubai: Daredevil window cleaners add sparkle to the world's tallest building...142,000 sq m of windows... \[video\]](#)- Building (UK)

[Copenhagen Design Week 2009: The focus was firmly on the local and national design community - and environmental sustainability...while classic, mid-century modern Danish design is inspiring, it's in the past; a new generation is looking towards sustainable and human-centered designs. By Terri Peters -- McDonough Braungart/Cradle-to-Cradle; Bjarke Ingles Group \(BIG\); 3XN \[images\]](#)- ArchNewsNow

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